Cucumber Sandwich

Slice of Wife Slice of Bliss

Volume 1 Chapter 1

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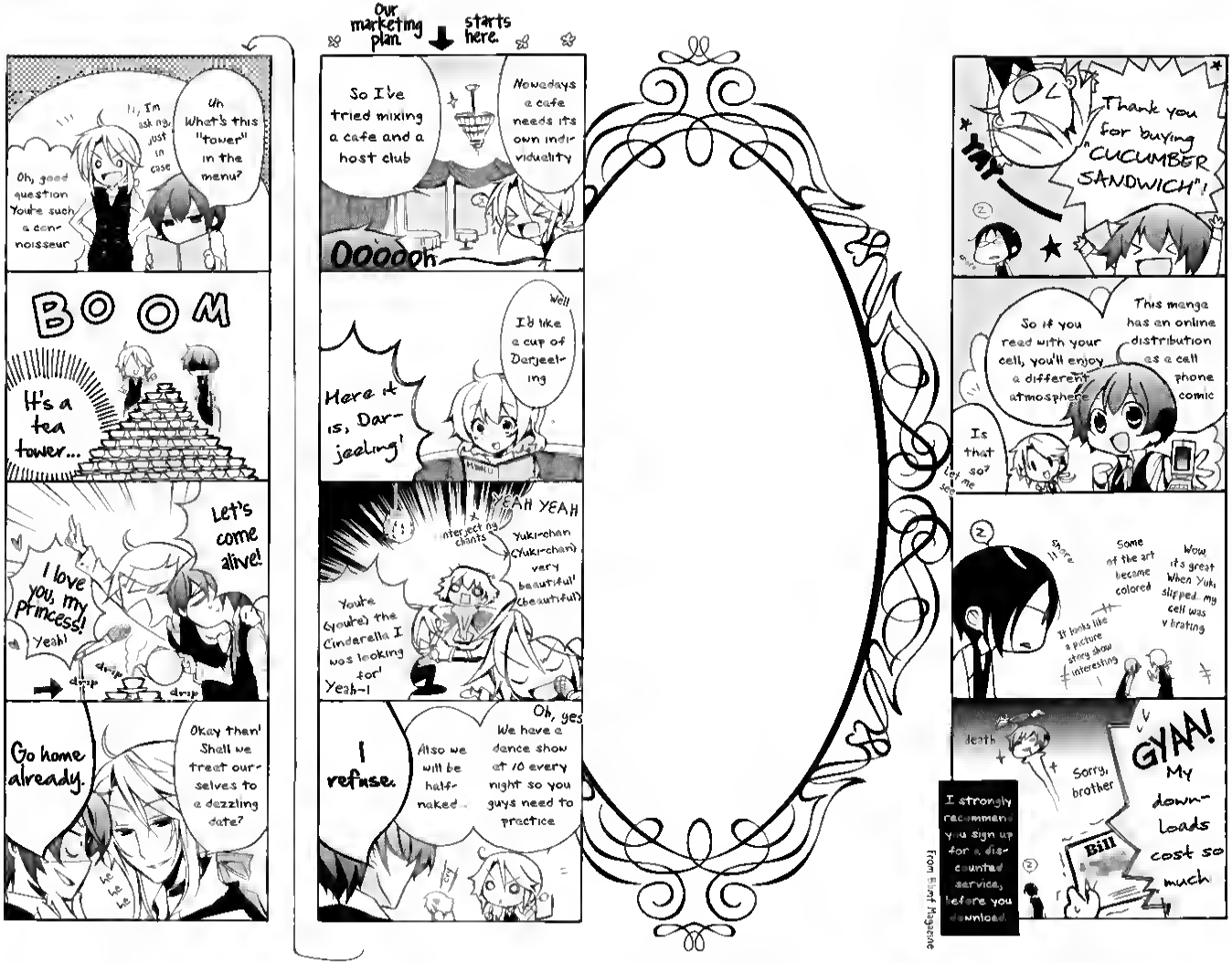

Our marketing plan starts here.
Uh What's this "tower" in the menu?
I, I'm asking just in case
Oh, good question You're such a connoisseur
BOOM
It's a tea tower...
Let's come alive!
I love you, my princess!
Yeah!
drip
drip
drip
Okay then! Shall we treat ourselves to a dazzling date?
Go home already.
So I've tried mixing a cafe and a host club
Nowadays a cafe needs its own individuality
OOOOoh
Here it is, Darjeeling!
Well I'll like a cup of Darjeeling
YEAH YEAH
interjecting chants
Yukichan (Yukichan) very beautiful! (beautiful)
Youre (youre) the Cinderella I was looking for! Yeah-!
Oh, yes
We have a dance show at 10 every night so you guys need to practice
Also we will be half-naked
I refuse.
Thank you for buying "CUCUMBER SANDWICH"!
So if you read with your cell, you'll enjoy a different atmosphere
This manga has an online distribution as a cell phone comic
Is that so?
Let me see
Some of the art became colored
Wow it's great When Yuki slipped my cell was vibrating
It looks like a picture story show interesting
death
Sorry, brother
GYAA! My down-loads cost so much
Bill
I strongly recommend you sign up for a discounted service, before you download.
From Bunch Magazine

Cucumber Sandwich

1

キューカンバー×サンドイッチ Higasa Akai 赤井ヒガサ

contents

The Place of Promise
3

The Customer is like a Prince
35

Kitchen Confidential
67

Mission Impossible
123

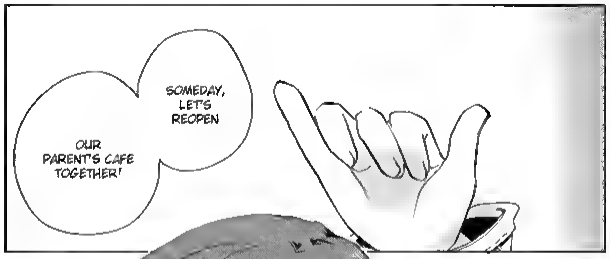
A Beginning is Always Sudden
153

It's Only a Matter of Time
195

1杯め Chapter 1
約束の場所
The Place of Promise

キューカンバー×サンドイッチ

There were four people in my family. Dad, Mom, myself, and my younger brother.
We said bye-bye to my parents because of "an accident" and we were sent to "an orphanage".
CLOSE
Today, I have to say goodbye to my brother.
BROTHER, I DON'T WANT TO GO...
YOU MUST GO
HOW KIND OF OUR AUNT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU
BUT I WANT TO BE WITH YOU!
...SHE SAID SHE CAN'T TAKE BOTH OF US. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY...
YOU WILL BE FINE.
PROMISE ME HARU.
PROMISE?


SOMEDAY, LET'S REOPEN
OUR PARENT'S CAFE TOGETHER!

So this is not "goodbye".
This is "see you again", Haru.

I wonder how long ago it was.

Yeah!

WE ONLY HAD TWO PAIRS OF CUSTOMERS TODAY AND LUNCH TIME IS ALMOST OVER
THE CAFE WILL SHOW A LOSS THIS MONTH AGAIN...
OK!
THIS IS FOR TABLE NO 3
YUKI-CHAN
gloom
I NEED TO SMILE! AND PROVIDE GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE
OH GOD I'M GOING TO HAVE MORE WRINKLES
THIS IS A MIXED SANDWICH PLATE WITH UNCURED HAM AND EGGS
THANK YOU FOR WAITING
Wel-come
Yuki-chan!
Really?

Natsuhiko Shinomiya, 26 years old
He hasn't seen his brother since then
He lives in a harsh reality without any hopes or dreams.
C-Customer!
So then!
Ha ha!
He is also in debt after starting this business.
AH!
KYA!
I-I'M SORRY. I'M SO SORRY!
CLEAN UP QUICKLY.
Hey!
LOOK AT THIS
I'VE GOT A STAIN HERE
SFX: BOOM
Oh, God!

This guy resembles Haru..
MAKE SURE YOU SEND IT IN THREE DAYS! GOT IT!?
IRRITATED
OH MAN I'M BUSY NOW
SO GET THE CLEANING DONE AND SEND IT TO MY OFFICE!
IRRITATED
HUH?
I'M SO SORRY
I'LL NEVER COME BACK HERE!
OWNER...?
ARE YOU OK?
I'm so sorry
SORRY, YUKI-CHAN

Tomoharu Shin...
CAN WE CLOSE EARLIER TODAY?
SHINOMIYA TOMOHARU!
THERE IS NO DOUBT
IT'S THE SAME NAME AND HE LOOKED JUST LIKE HARU... HE MUST BE HARU!
By the way, he is working as a host...
MY IMAGE OF HARU IS...
I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO ASK YOU!
DO YOU... DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
AH!
YOU'RE FROM LUNCH TIME... HAVE YOU DONE THE CLEANING ALREADY?
NOT REALLY
NO WAY!
I'M YOUR BROTHER... ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T KNOW ME?

Bliss
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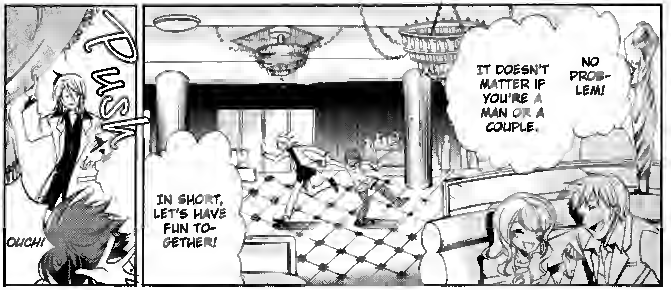
09
THE host!
NICE TO MEET YOU I'M THE NO.1 HOST FROM THIS CLUB, KAZUTO
He is the typical host from TV dramas or documentaries...!
I ONLY HAVE BUSINESS WITH MY LITTLE BROTHER!
OH? YOU'RE HIS BROTHER?
snatch
CAN I SEE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE?
Oh Natsuhiko Shinmiya Age 26
What the hell!?
Hey Ju...
HEY WAIT!
okaeri
A new customer is coming.


Push
OUCH!
IN SHORT, LET'S HAVE FUN TOGETHER!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A MAN OR A COUPLE.
NO PROBLEM!

IF YOU WANT ME TO HELP, I'LL ASK HARUKA AGAIN.
AND ISN'T IT EASIER TO TALK ABOUT THAT IN A PRIVATE ROOM LIKE THIS?
R-REALLY!?

YOU'RE TOO DISTRUSTFUL. IT'S ALL-YOU-CAN-DRINK FOR 5000 YEN. A REASONABLE PRICE.
Except wine and whisky though.
ARE YOU GOING TO CHARGE AN OUTRAGEOUS PRICE?
WITH DRINKS,
YOU CAN ORDER WHATEVER YOU WANT
I SEE
clink

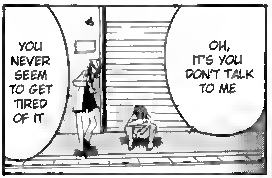
drunk~
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
Oh!
YOU MEAN, YOU WANT HIM TO QUIT HIS JOB AND WORK WITH YOU AT YOUR CAFE?
ARE YOU BAD WITH ALCOHOL!?
YOU SAID YOU RETIRED FROM OFFICE WORK AND STARTED A CAFE
It's only your second drink!
i didn't go out for drinks.
i always declined!!
HARU USED TO BE CRYBABY. HE ALSO FELL OVER A LOT AND CLUNG TO ME
HE ALWAYS NEEDED ME
I DON'T THINK BEING AN OFFICE WORKER SUITS YOU
Ha ha ha
Your baby face wouldn't look good in a suit either
Ugh I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ANY-MORE!

PROBABLY MY DECEASED PARENTS WERE WORRIED ABOUT HARU THE MOST.
SO I WANTED TO PROTECT HIM INSTEAD OF THEM.
BUT IT WAS ALL WHEN YOU WERE KIDS.
HE MAY HAVE BECOME A DIFFERENT PERSON.
BUT I STILL
BRING HARU HERE
DAMN, IT'S NO GOOD!
THERE IS NO REASON WHY I HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE OTHERS
Owner-san
HUH?
IF WE GO ON LIKE THIS WE'LL BE HERE FOREVER
THUD

You like your brother that much?
What!?
WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU, I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY TYPE
SO, WHY DON'T YOU—
STRUGGLE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
STRUGGLE
STRUGGLE
YOU SEEM VERY SERIOUS BUT YOUR FACE IS CUTE
SPX-CRASH
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
SHOCK

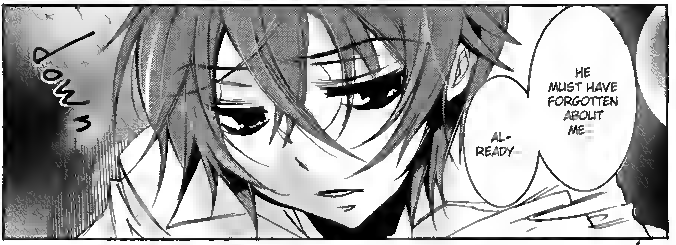
I'M GOING HOME!
AH HA HA HA HA!
BANG
How funny!
DID YOU TAKE IT SERIOUSLY?
NEVER COME BACK AGAIN, OWNER-SAN
After all, you must understand
that we live in different worlds?
Aaaa

SAM
BYE.
HARU, CAN WE TALK A LITTLE BIT?
UGH... I'VE GOT A HANGOVER... I SHOULD GIVE UP FOR TODAY.
Damn it...
Throb
Throb
Throb
Seems like the sounds affected him
The next day
I BROUGHT YOUR JACKET.
Shock
I'm sure he is avoiding me...!
Whoa!
Since that day I haven't seen Haru.
IT HAS BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE I STARTED THE SURVEILLANCE
Press
DAMN WHY...
Sigh
Slide


YOU NEVER SEEM TO GET TIRED OF IT
OH, IT'S YOU DON'T TALK TO ME

WAH!
shock
THANKS A LOT FOR WATCHING HIM TODAY AS WELL!

THINGS ARE GOING WELL?

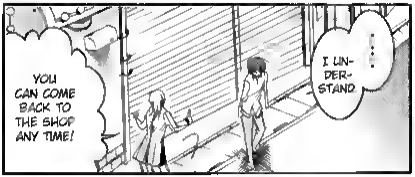

down
HE MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME
AL-READY

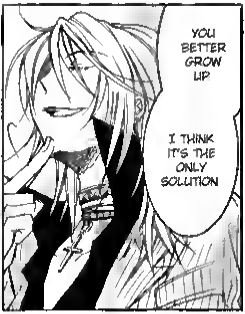
WHAT HAPPENED!? A FIGHT!?
NO, IT'S A NEWCOMER FROM LAST WEEK

shock
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SCUM!

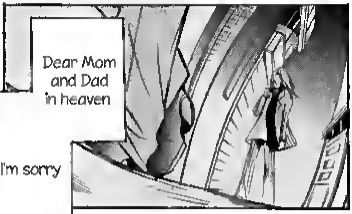
MAKING MONEY AS A HOST IS DIFFICULT.
ONLY A FEW CAN.
EVERYONE BECOMES A FULL-FLEDGED HOST THROUGH THAT PROCESS.
THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T THROW AWAY OUR OCCUPATION AS IF IT'S NOTHING.
THEN HARU ALSO...
THAT'S RIGHT... SO...

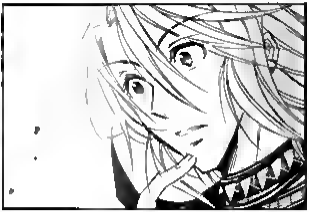
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP ON HIM?


YOU CAN COME BACK TO THE SHOP ANY TIME!
I UN-DER-STAND
.....

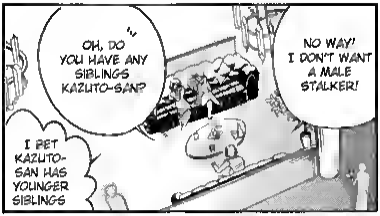

YOU BETTER GROW UP
I THINK IT'S THE ONLY SOLUTION

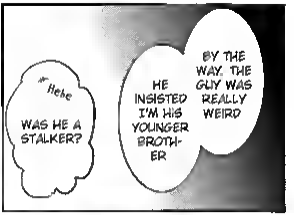
Giggle
Giggle
But I guess you'll never be able to
I WANT YOU TO ORDER A DOM PERIGNON NEXT TIME


Dear Mom and Dad in heaven
I'm sorry



ALL RIGHT! IT'S NOT MY STYLE TO BE SO WISHY-WASHY
I'M STILL IN DEBT SO I CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS
Please keep an eye on Haru forever...
So...
I'll do my best for your cafe
HELLO YUKI-CHAN?
I'M GOING TO OPEN OUR CAFE EVERY AFTER-NOON FROM TOMORROW
Hey.
clack
HELLO OWN-ER?
ARE YOU THERE?
DIDN'T YOU PROMISE TO RETURN THE MONEY THIS MONTH?
SIZZLOOMING


OH, DO YOU HAVE ANY SIBLINGS KAZUTO-SAN?
NO WAY! I DON'T WANT A MALE STALKER!
I BET KAZUTO-SAN HAS YOUNGER SIBLINGS


BY THE WAY, THE GUY WAS REALLY WEIRD
HE INSISTED I'M HIS YOUNGER BROTHER
Hehe
WAS HE A STALKER?

NOT AT ALL!
HIS APPEARANCE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT. HE STILL HAS A BABY FACE
HE HAS A SHARP TONGUE, BUT REALLY HE IS WEAK AND A BIT UNRELIABLE...

Wrong!
I HAVE ONLY AN OLDER BROTHER
REALLY? I'M SURE YOUR BROTHER IS ALSO GOOD LOOKING.

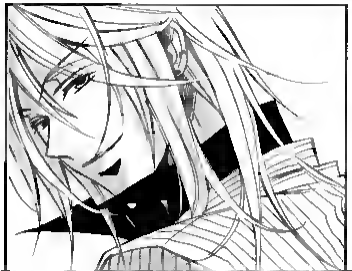
ARE YOU DRUNK, KAZUTO-SAN!?
...BUT I GUESS THIS WAY IS BETTER...
I'M AFRAID I ACTUALLY WANTED TO TAKE HIS SIDE...

Stand
K-KAZUTO-SAN?
KAZUTO-SAN!
HEY, TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF HIM.
WHO ARE YOU?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS, OUT-SIDER.

My name is Tomoharu Shinomiya.
I'm his brother.
WHY ARE YOU...
I'M NOT AN OUTSIDER!

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU...
PH!?
YOU MEAN, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY OFF THE 15 MILLION?
HUH IP
HERE.
HEY!
IN EX-CHANGE FOR THE MONEY...
one million ten million one billion
Hundred thousand
Ah!
CLATTER
THIS IS THE PIN
IT'S ALL YOURS

Don't come anywhere near my brother anymore.
Understand?



TOMO...
HARU...

CONFUSED
I FEEL REALLY STUPID TO MAKE A MISTAKE LIKE THAT
WHY..
WHY WERE YOU HIDING...
CONFUSED
YOU NEED TO PROTECT YOURSELF, MORE THAN ME
PAT PAT
WHAT!?
BUT I GUESS YOU COULDN'T TELL
BECAUSE IT HAD MY NAME AFTER ALL
TO TELL THE TRUTH THE JACKET THAT HARUKA HAD WAS MINE
WHAT'S WRONG?
I... I'M TOO SURPRISED
I can't move
YOU...
BASTARD...
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT MY FEELINGS?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BASTARD!?
LET'S GO HOME, TO OUR CAFE.
WELL, THERE IS NO OTHER WAY
I MUST WORK WITH YOU...
PU
LL
?
IT'S FINE FROM THE BEGINNING I WAS FORCED TO WORK OFF AUNT'S DEBT.
...GO HOME?
HOW ABOUT YOUR WORK?
HOWEVER, I HAD TO REVEAL MY IDENTITY MYSELF. SO I'VE LOST COMPLETELY
TOMOHARU
SO I DECIDED THAT IF YOU NOTICED ME, I WOULD GO WITH YOU.
BUT I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE CAFE..
I'VE BEEN WORKING ABOUT TWO YEARS SO I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT.

I WAS ASHAMED TO SAY THAT I AM YOUR BROTHER I LOOK LIKE EXACTLY "THE HOST" FROM TV DRAMAS OR DOCUMENTARIES
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE EMBARRASSED
BECAUSE
MOREOVER
UH UM, IT'S NOTHING
WHAT IS IT? SAY IT PROPERLY
At the time, I thought that we must be brothers.
And how could he say such a thing? He is still a coward, just like he used to be
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU THIS IS YUKI-CHAN
HELLO, YUKI-CHAN?
SHE'S NOT LISTENING
GAZE

Eh?! Poof
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME, YUKI-SENPAI
I'LL ASK YOU WHENEVER I HAVE A QUESTION
I can't stand to be next to him!
C-Can I help in the kitchen for a while?
He surely was the no.1 host...
I MIGHT BE GETTING IN THE WAY
BROTHER
I don't know what to say...
Our cafe's atmosphere has changed since he came
And customers have started coming.
Kyaaa!!

I'm home.
ANYWAY, THAT'S AN ORDER
Um Welcome back
WELL PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
It's not bye-bye
See you later Haru
AH

I'M THE ONE FOLLOWING YOU!
OKAY? OWNER.

We finally reopened this cafe together
Today we achieved the first step of our dream.
FALL

Bliss

キューカンバー×サンドイッチ

Cucumber Sandwich

キューカンバー×サンドイッチ

1

赤井ヒガサ

Higasa Akai

YA! COMICS

Cucumber Sandwich

キューカンバー×サンドイッチ 1

赤井ヒガサ

8bmマガジン

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天涯孤独なナツヒコの夢は、
亡き両親が営業していたような
だれもがくつろげるカフェをつくること!
経営難・借金苦・顧客トラブルの中、
偶然出会った客は生き別れの弟!?
トラブルがトラブルを運ぶ
超コミカルカフェ物語ここに開幕——!

Cucumber Sandwich

Cucumber Sandwich

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 1 Chapter 2

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Japanese & Chinese Translators
Editors
Proofreaders

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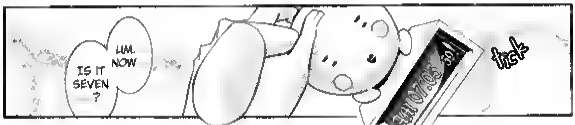
2杯め
俺サマなお客サマ

The room, the clothes, all given by his parents.
This place is exactly like a miniature garden
I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU AKIRA
YOU TOOK FIRST PLACE AGAIN AT THE NATIONAL EXAM IT'S QUITE LIKELY THAT YOU'LL ENTER THE LAW DEPARTMENT AT T UNI IN THE FUTURE
YOUR TUTOR DOES A REALLY GOOD JOB WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THE EXPENSIVE TUITION FEE
IT'S OKAY, RAY. I'LL MAKE TEA TODAY
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THIS, AKIRA-SAMA IF YOU GET BURNED ....
I CAN'T WIN AGAINST YOU WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING TEA SO...
BUT...
AKIRA-SAMA IS VERY TALENTED AT OTHER THINGS...
I UNDERSTAND.
Smile
I CAN'T STAND TO LOSE TO A SERVANT LIKE YOU EITHER!
SHUT UP!
I HAVEN'T LOST TO ANYONE YET.

I don't need anyone else other than him as an ally
THIS IS PE-FECT.
RAY WILL ABSO-LUTELY / RAISE ME.
Ray is my servant but sometimes he does things better than me.
clatter
If we make up for each other, it will be "equal."
open
RAY!!
anxious
AKI-RA!
OH, AKIRA-SAMA!
After all,
there is nothing owned by me in this miniature garden...

NN


UM. NOW
IS IT SEVEN ?
trick

Step !
NO WAY!
I CAN'T MAKE IT ON TIME! MY SHOP...!
7 A.M.!?

THIS CAFE IS VERY NICE
YEAH IT'S A LOVELY LOCATION ALONG THE RIVER, TOO.
Er- sister...
WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER CUP OF TEA?
♡ Yes, please!
That's the problem, Yuki-chan.
Tomoharu someday I'll pay back the money that I borrowed
WHY?
SINCE TOMOHARU-SAN CAME, THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING WELL...
Hm... it's no good...

point
IDIOT! MONEY COMES AND GOES.
I MUST DRAW A CLEAR LINE EVEN BETWEEN US.
NO, IT'S OK
IT'S FINE I STILL HAVE SOME MONEY AND I ALREADY OWN AN APARTMENT.
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T CARE IF YOU PAY ME BACK.
Nasty things.
Ch-chuu
Ch-chuu
It was I want to forget.
I PLANNED TO PAY HIM BACK WITH OUR PROFIT BUT HE'S THE ONE MAKING IT.
YOU'RE VERY GOOD AT MAKING TEA, AREN'T YOU?
Please cheer up
INSTEAD OF THAT, I DID MANY NASTY THINGS TO YOU

THE TEA.
slam
THANK YOU FOR WAITING THIS IS A POT OF ASSAM
Wow
He's as handsome as Tomoharu...
I'M ENVI-OUS
HOW LONG DOES IT NEED TO BE IN-FUSED?
Oh
I'M SORRY.
PLEASE INFUSE FOR ABOUT 3 MINUTES AND THEN SERVE

POUR
Huh?
NO IT HAS TO BE 90 SECONDS
IT'S BEEN ONE MINUTE SINCE YOU POURED THE HOT WATER OVER THERE TO HERE
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
PULL
It's awful!

I'm sorry I'll make a new one again
NO THANK YOU!
IT SEEMS YOU LACK THE FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS
I CAN'T EXPECT MORE THAN THIS IN YOUR CAFE
EXCUSE ME... WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?
I would rather drink swimming-pool water than your tea.

Wha...
What!?
ARE YOU MAD?
shiver shiver
BEFORE YOU COMPLAIN, YOU SHOULD MAKE SOME PROPER TEA
You, bas-tard!
Come back! I'll make you speech-less.
—I'LL COME IF I FEEL LIKE IT
"SPEECH LESS"
—OH, YEAH,
IT'S TOO OLD-FASH-IONED

Angry
That bastard in spite of his face he is young
What's so good about being young!?
Owner
Ah
OH HE TOTALLY MOCKED YOU
BRO-THER. WHAT ARE THESE BOOKS FOR?
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION!
I BORROWED ALL THE BOOKS ABOUT TEA FROM THE LIBRARY
I also bought some books that were out us ng a loan
Sexi thumb
Now that bastard will shut his mouth.
Hehehe
OKAY, THEN I'M GOING HOME
Hahaha

TOMO-HARU, REMEM-BER?
WE PROMISED TO MAKE OUR CAFE PROSPER AGAIN
Eh!?
Yeah
COME ON! YOU JUST NEED TO READ A FEW BOOKS!
THIS IS NOT A DON'T FEW! RUIN BEAUTI-FUL MEMO-RIES
Ok. Make me!
HERE IS YOUR TEA, CUS-TOMER
Looks dejected
This is a service
FROM OUR CAFE
BA
Yuck!
NG
Well ?

HE IS VERY USEFUL, FOR TEASING
mumble mumble
Damn! Come back here! I'll beat you next time!
Calm down sir~ ther
Ow ner
INTER-EST-ING
Puff
WHEN DID THIS SHOP BECOME A STANDING STYLE CAFE?
HERE YOU GO!
TRY SOME FOR FREE
You no longer think I'm a Customer
click click
Open
WELCOME
Shock
It ~oo b tte
Shock
I e aroun- yo- e
Shock
I ff d- co o
And every day...
Every day...

I WILL SHOW YOU WHY YOUR TEA IS NOT GOOD
grab
GET IN.
HEY!
WAIT!
!?
BRO-THER!
Skrk
screech
HEY. YOU ... WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE ME!?
rumble
TO MY HOUSE.
screech

TA-DAH
WELCOME HOME
IT'S RARE TO HAVE A VISITOR
Is this an important cultural property!?
It House seems more like
open
WHO... ARE YOU ANYWAY?
THIS IS AKIRA MIKADO-SAMA 22 YEARS OLD
DON'T YOU KNOW?
ALLOW ME TO SAY THIS...
HE IS THE SON OF MIKADO ZAIBATSU

Cucumber x Sandwich

キューカンバー×サンドイッチ

IS THIS A ROOM ?
IT'S MUCH BIGGER THAN OUR CAFE
I see
Ah
EXCLISE ME
Oh!
AT LEAST YOU HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE
IT IS GOOD MANNERS TO TAKE FROM THE BOTTOM BUT TODAY IT DOESN'T MATTER JUST ENJOY
THEY'LL BRING US TEA SOON
This feels like being a nobleman
I WAS DREAMING OF THIS
Wow!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE TRIED THIS
THIS IS... THE ENGLISH STYLE AFTER-NOON TEA!?
Afternoon Tea

AND THE TEA POT...
POT?
OH, YEAH WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY TEA?
So you should choose a higher quality leaf and don't use the leaf if the container have been opened for more than two months
The difference comes simply from the quality of the tea leaves
JAPANESE TAP WATER IS SOFT WATER WHICH IS SUITABLE FOR MAKING TEA
SO IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO USE BOILING WATER
Jumping
A spherical shaped pot appropriates for it the most
AT FIRST IT'S IMPORTANT TO ALLOW CONVECTION IN THE POT TO INFUSE THE FLAVOR PROPERLY.
Probably, you're just such weird
SHOCK
I FOLLOWED EXACTLY AS THE BOOK SAID THOUGH
Hmm...
The waiting time after pouring hot water should be four minutes for big leaves and three minutes for the small leaves...
TO KEEP THE TEA TEMPERATURE YOU NEED TO WARM UP THE POT AND CUPS IN ADVANCE

TRY THIS.
clatter
This is really tasty!
Great!

I FEEL LIKE YOU'VE MASTERED MAKING TEA.
I CAN'T MAKE TEA AS WELL AS YOU
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH TEA.
SO IF YOU DO EXACTLY WHAT I SAID YOUR TEA WILL BE
NO, PROBABLY I CAN'T
NO, I'M SERIOUS!
YOU'RE VERY SKILLFUL, THE FLAVOR AND TASTE ARE PERFECT!
I GUARANTEE THAT YOUR TEA IS GREAT!
I SEE

Oh, no. Thank you so much, Mikado-san! Mikado-sama!?
I forgot, you're the son of Mikado Zaiendaisu
THANKS, MIKADO
I'LL MAKE SECOND A CUP FOR YOU
PASS ME YOUR CUP
WELL, FINISH UP THE PLATE
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT
chuckle
I DON'T CARE
TALK TO ME CASUALLY
YOU CAN CALL ME AKIRA
You're sharp as he is
THE HOST
IS THAT THE GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE A HOST?
*Text: The Host
I SAID I'M OKAY, YOU'RE TOO PERSISTENT
YEAH, I'M OKAY!
HELLO TOMOHARU!?
I forgot
BROTHER?
OH!
SORRY IT'S FROM MY BROTHER!
Stand
PARRR
?
IS THAT SO?
Phew
Well he is four years younger than me
As long as Tomoharu

I'M GOING HOME SOON.

THIS HOUSE, MANY CLOTHES, DAD, AND RAY...
BUT SHE HAS EVERY-THING...
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HER I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BUT...
THAT DIRTY EVIL WOMAN...
I BE-LIEVED YOU!
TRAITOR!
You're mine, Ray...

UH...
AKIRA?
!
clack
WAIT
...DON'T GO HOME
BE MY SERVANT

...Eh?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S NOT BAD, RIGHT?
IF YOU PROMISE THAT, I CAN GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT
STAY HERE WITH ME,
AND NEVER BETRAY ME.
...WHAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?

Can I return the money to Tomoharu...?
In that cas...
Any-thing I want
If that's the case..
Ther!
Brother!
sfx: shock
Bro-ther!

I'm sorry.
I'M THE OWNER
I CAN'T GIVE UP SO IRRESPONSIBLY
NO ONE WANTS THAT
AND
AND
DIDN'T YOU SAY
I CAN CALL YOU "AKIRA"?
AND STOP TALKING SO POLITELY...
Pu
Doesn't it mean we're "friends" !?

AFTER ALL NOTHING BELONGS TO ME IN THIS MINIATURE GARDEN...
HE HE
YEAH, "FRIENDS" THAT'S RIGHT
...SO NOW
AKIRA...?

TA-
DAH
THIS IS AKIRA MIKADO-KUN.
HE WILL BE WORKING WITH US FROM TODAY
Damn you!
EVERYONE, PLEASE BE FRIENDLY AND DON'T BULLY HIM...
I was sur-prised, too
UH, YEAH
So you were listen ing
Explain it to me, brother!
Why is this guy here?
This guy kid-napped you and tried to make you into a servant

This morning ...
NN
When I got up just like always...
yawn
There was a guy sleeping with his suitcase
I woke him up to question him
and the guy said
Wake up!
He is in a deep sleep
MY HOUSE? I RAN AWAY
WHAT!?
And the reason was.

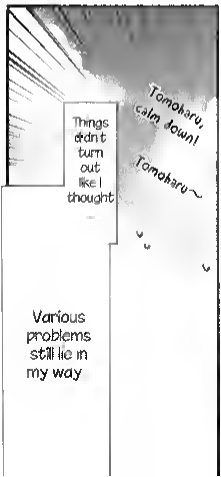
You're the one that said
that my tea is special and you'll guaran-tee it
I DON'T MIND BEING WITH YOU SO I CAME HERE
THAT'S ALL
I KNEW YOU'RE LIVING ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CAFE BECAUSE I HEARD YOUR LOUD MUMBLE BEFORE
THAT'S WHY I MADE UP MY MIND AND LEFT HOME.
In short
This guy
threw away such valuable things due to my words..
Oh my God
Idiot
Stupid
Moron!

THIS IS ASSAM MILK TEA AND DARJEELING
Stare
Tamakaru-san also looks so cool today
That's true
I wonder to whom am I talking
Can you throw away a person who doesn't know much of the world? I can't
I'm so sorry thank you very much
Y-Yes I'm sorry
Somehow they are apologizing
WHEN THE SANDGLASS IS FINISHED, POUR INTO THE CUP
THAT'S ALL
LOOK AT THAT. THOSE REGULAR CUSTOMERS SEEM HAPPY
BY THE WAY, HE IS NOT CUT OUT TO BE A WAITER...
Speak politely to the customer at least!
This is so good!
He is really strange

He felt exactly the same way.
IT CAN'T BE...
HE IS STILL PLANNING TO MAKE YOU A SERVANT

UM... YOU WERE THE NUMBER-ONE HOST, SO YOU CAN TEACH HIM...
IT'S LIKE YOU PICKED UP A BIG DOG AND IT BECAME ATTACHED TO YOU

HE HAS NO MONEY NOW AND I GUESS HE THINKS HE IS INDEBTED TO ME...
NO WAY...


Things didn't turn out like I thought...
Various problems still lie in my way...
Tomoharu, calm down!
Tomoharu~

Happy 6th
Anniversary,
Bliss!

Cucumber Sandwich

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 1 Chapter 3

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3杯め
キッチン×コンフィデンシャル

Our parents cafe was quite trendy and popular
It was the so-called den, which was always busting with locals.
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER NATSU AND HARU.

I'M NOT ANGRY!
Uh. Calm down!
heh heh
hic!
NO, DON'T BE ANGRY, BROTHER!
IT'S NOT HARU'S TURN! THIS IS AIKAWA-SAN'S.
IT'S FINE! THEY'RE VERY GOOD KIDS.
I HOPE YOU'LL STAY LIKE THIS WHEN YOU GROW UP.
YOU TWO ARE REALLY CLOSE..
AHA HA HA
UWAHH!
I DON'T WANT TO!
WELL.. HOW ABOUT GETTING MARRIED WITH MY DAUGHTER?
SHE'S STILL IN MY TUMMY THOUGH.
I liked...
This place a lot.

Well.. I liked it here a lot but...
Now our cafe's atmosphere is...
HORRIBLE.
Not bad
OH, YEAH
THIS IS SO YUMMY
I DIDN'T KNOW TOMOHARU WAS A GOOD COOK
WELL, I'VE BEEN LIVING ALONE FOR A LONG TIME
A MAN GOOD AT COOKING IS POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS AFTER ALL
My job obliges me to be that way
I see

Why do I have to eat this? It looks like dog food.
Khph!
COME ON, AKIRA!
DON'T FROWN. TRY SOME!
Here you go
ME?
WHAT?
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE FOOD COOKED BY A FAILED HOST LIKE YOU.
CLATTER
I ONLY EAT FOOD THAT I CAN TRUST.
YOU HAD THE PUDDING AND THE BBQ BOWL THAT I BOUGHT LAST NIGHT
THAT MEANS... YOU JUST DON'T LIKE ME
IGNORING
IT'S ONLY NATURAL
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE MY SERVANT
PULL
OF COURSE I DON'T WANT THAT! HE'S MY BROTHER.
We're related by blood!
H-HEY...

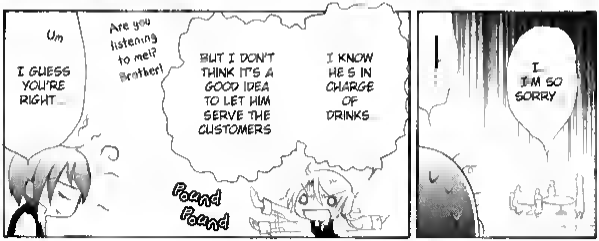
OH.
YOU'RE HERE.
GLARE
Uh
Ah
RELAX YOU TWO
UM...
CRY
PLEASE BE FRIENDLY EVERY
Well ...
IS MY CAFE GOING TO BE OKAY...?
HE DOESN'T CARE WHAT GOES ON IN FRONT OF HIM
Don't stare
183cm.
152cm.
Eeee!

EXCUSE ME, WE WANT TO HAVE A TABLE WITH A RIVER VIEW
Is it possible to have a table for the three of us?
WELCOME
It's often the case
dreams and reality are different...
Oh
I'M SORRY,
BUT THERE ARE JUST TWO SEATS
slide
ONE MOMENT, PLEASE
PLEASE MIND YOUR STEP
efficiently
Oh...

He is indeed a professional server...
He is very reliable
WHAT CAN I GET FOR YOU?
CAN WE HAVE THE SANDWICH AND DRINK SET FOR THREE?
I'LL HAVE DAR-JEE-LING.
ASSAM PLEASE.
MAKE IT TWO.

EH—
I CAN PERSONALLY RECOMMEND THEM
HEHEHE
HOW ABOUT COFFEE? OR ANOTHER DRINK
EXCUSE ME,—
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HAVE TEA?
EH!?
YURIKO SAID SHE CAME HERE WITH HER BOYFRIEND
BUT MY FRIEND SAID THIS CAFE HAS REALLY GOOD TEA
YEAH, WITH THE CONSTRUCTION WORKER!
SU—
SURE—
ISN'T TEA RECOMMENDED?

HEY. DON'T BOTHER ME BY PUTTING STUFF ON THE TABLE.
MAY I POUR HOT WATER ON YOUR HEAD?
BOOM


Um
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
Are you listening to me!? Brother!
BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO LET HIM SERVE THE CUSTOMERS
I KNOW HE'S IN CHARGE OF DRINKS...
Pound! Pound!
I... I'M SO SORRY

I SEE.
YOU LIKE HIM, BROTHER...
Huh!?
BESIDES... HE GREW UP WEALTHY AND HAS NO COMMON SENSE.
I THINK HE NEEDS TO ASSOCIATE WITH PEOPLE MORE...
WELCOME...
rattle
YOU'RE CRUEL. YOU WERE JUST FOOLING AROUND WITH ME?
Weren't you?
What's that!? There was nothing between us!
Why are you changing the topic!?
IT SEEMS... HE CAN'T SHAKE THE HABIT OF BEING A HOST...
wheeze
I'M DONE...

DID YOUR RICH FAMILY DRINK TEA OFTEN?
WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED?
YOU'RE REALLY INTO TEA
OH WELL PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TEA.
GOOD JOB
THAT'S RIGHT.
I
YEAH
FOR EXAMPLE, YOU LIKE GREEN TEA NATURALLY, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S JUST A NATURAL THING TO YOU. IT'S THE SAME.
Oh.
It was a joke though
DOES THERE HAVE TO BE A PARTICULAR REASON THAT WE COME TO LIKE SOMETHING?
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS ANYMORE.
tuyu

WHICH ONE SHOULD I GET, EARL GRAY OR ORANGE PEKOE ?
HEY! WHY CAN'T YOU DECIDE QUICKLY?
OH
WAIT A MINUTE!
ARE YOU READY TO ORDER?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH TEA YOU CHOOSE THEY'RE BOTH SIMILAR
Um They started f ght ng
It's t ne t ake takes her time
NO, IT'S DIFFERENT
IF YOU TRY YOU'LL KNOW!
Don't say such a th ng!
IS THAT SO?
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO PICKY WITH SOMETHING AS MINOR AS TEA
CREAK
IT'S ALL THE SAME WHEN IT GOES DOWN YOUR THROAT

STEP
A-
AKIRA
Strange
Some-
thing.
Ow.
SFX: pull
Akira!

Kyaa!
W-
WHAT!?
Take it back, quick-ly.
... Take back.
what you said just now!

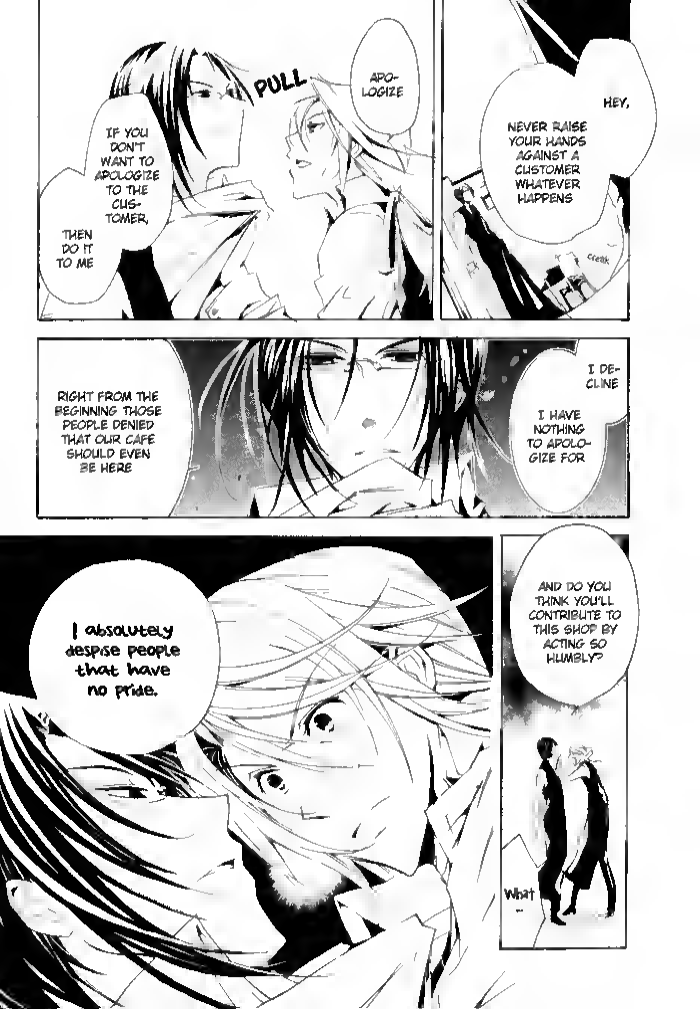
Hey! Stop, Akira!
Stop!

Let go.

I BEG YOUR PARDON. IT SEEMS HE JUST TRIED TO STRAIGHTEN UP YOUR COLLAR.
CREAK
THAT'S WHY HE ACTED RUDELY...
COUGH
WHAT WEREN'T YOU WATCHING!?
HOW CAN YOU BE SO BLIND?
I'M SORRY.
YOUR SHOE IS WET.
STOMP
MAY I WIPE IT OFF?
GRIN
DO YOU THINK I'LL FORGIVE YOU SO EASILY?
HUH?
STRAIGHTEN

smile
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
I'M LEAVING!
UH, W-
WAIT!

SLAM
!


PULL
APO-
LOGIZE
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO THE CUS-TOMER,
THEN DO IT TO ME
HEY,
NEVER RAISE YOUR HANDS AGAINST A CUSTOMER WHATEVER HAPPENS
creak
I DE-CLINE
I HAVE NOTHING TO APOLO-GIZE FOR
RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING THOSE PEOPLE DENIED THAT OUR CAFE SHOULD EVEN BE HERE
AND DO YOU THINK YOU'LL CONTRIBUTE TO THIS SHOP BY ACTING SO HUMBLY?
What --
I absolutely despise people that have no pride.

GRAB
SOMEONE WHO HASN'T SUFFERED ANY HARDSHIPS LIKE YOU
DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE PRIDE OF A SERVICE BUSINESS.
SIGH...
stop grumbling!
step

!
SFX: PUNCH

BRO-
THER
WHY...?
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
TOMO-
HARU
CALM
DOWN
push
WHY...
WHY
ARE YOU
PROTEC-
TING HIM?
I THINK
AKIRA
WAS
WRONG,
TOO
BUT YOU
CAN'T
SOLVE
ANY-
THING BY
FORCE...

grab
IS THAT SO? HEY
This is bad...
It hurts
TOMO-HARU...
...I ASSUME
YOU'RE TAKING HIS SIDE?
...STOP IT. KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HIM.
SHUT UP! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS!
THAT'S RIGHT... IT WAS YOUR FAULT TO BEGIN WITH...

YUKI-CHAN, WAIT!
DASH
I CAN'T BEAR THIS ANYMORE!

WOBBLES
IT'S THE UNUSED BACK DOOR...

!!
CRASH

Cucumber x Sandwich

Yuki-chan!

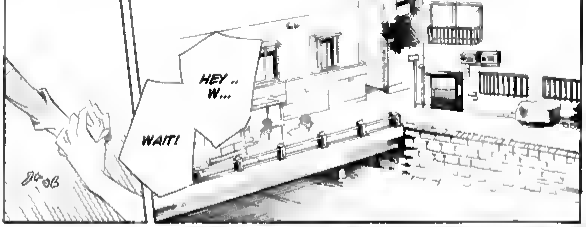
NN
NN

YUKI-CHAN!
HOLD ON, YUKI-CHAN!

relieved
THANK GOD...
ARE YOU OKAY? DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?

PLEASE!
PLEASE GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE...!
OWNER
ALSO TOMOHARU-SAN AND MIKADO-SAN
YOU GUYS ARE SCARY
YUKI-CHAN
AH! UH—
SOB
I'M SORRY— I KNOW I'M JUST A PART TIME WORKER—
BUT—

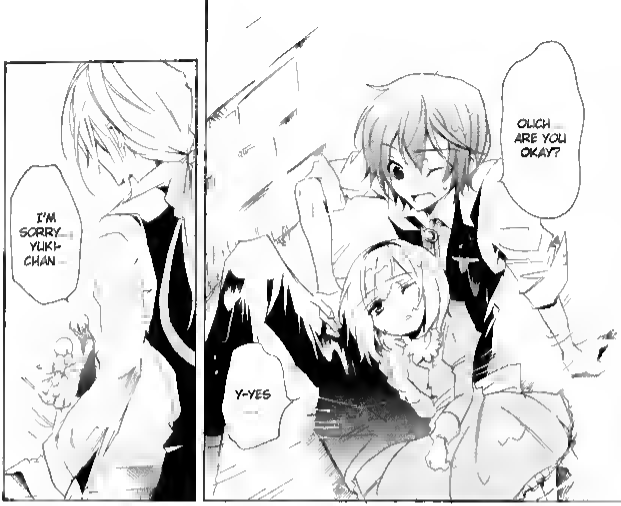
DASH
I'm so sorry!
AH!
WAIT A MOMENT!
Yuki-chan!


HEY .. W...
WAIT!

Kyaa!

sfx: splash
ポチャ!
*tap
Brother! Yuki-chan!

wobble
HUH?
AH!


I'M SORRY YUKI-CHAN
Y-YES
OUCH ARE YOU OKAY?

BECAUSE I LACK CAPACITY
IT'S ALL MY FAULT

TOMOHARU, CAN YOU CLOSE THE SHOP FOR NOW?
YOU MIGHT CATCH A COLD IF YOU STAY LIKE THIS
THANK YOU
THERE'S A SHOWER IN MY ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR SO YOU CAN USE IT

!
SORRY OWNER... I'LL GO FIRST
OKAY
CREAK
SLAM
OBVI-OUS-LY...
I LACK THE ABILITY...

I'm tired...
sigh

If this continues, it's possible that Yuki-chan will quit

Tomoharu and Akira. They're like opposites.
I can't make them get along

Maybe it's over now

It's over...
It's too late to fix...
CREAK
...OWNER.
SIGH...
UH... YOU'RE FAST
OH YEAH THERE'S A DRYER OVER THERE

N...
Nnnnn....
naked!?
CONFUSED
thump
thump
thump
OWNER
LOOK AT ME CAREFULLY
Hey... Yuki-chan!?
CREAK
scurry
thump
thump
thump
thump
W...
WHAT SHOULD I LOOK AT ?

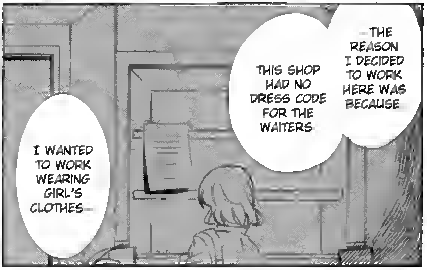
I WANT YOU TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME
I DON'T WANT TO HIDE IT ANY MORE, IT'S TOO HARSH
WAIT! I ABSOLUTELY CAN'T DO THAT!
WE NEED TO HAVE A PROPER PROCESS
NO, I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL SO YOU'LL HAVE MORE ENCOUNTERS...
OK! I've got it! I'll talk about the ex that I was planning to marry 3 years ago!
I'm an adult! So sit down here, so I can explain it to you
OW-NER!
STOP
AH...
YUKI-CHAN... IT CAN'T BE... YOU'RE

A
boy!?

YUKI-CHAN...
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS...?
stomp
I'M SORRY!
I'M...
I'M NOT A NORMAL...
UM...
BY ANY CHANCE, ARE YOU HAVING A GENDER IDENTITY DISORDER...?
NO...
I NEVER THOUGHT I WAS A GIRL
OR...?

EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER I HAVE LIVED WITH MY MOM AND TWO SISTERS
I THINK THAT MIGHT HAVE INFLUENCED ME
I CALLED MYSELF "WATASHI"* AND LIKED CUTE CLOTHES

*In Japanese, girls usually call themselves "watashi"


I WANTED TO WORK WEARING GIRL'S CLOTHES
THIS SHOP HAD NO DRESS CODE FOR THE WAITERS
THE REASON I DECIDED TO WORK HERE WAS BECAUSE

I GUESS USUALLY PEOPLE DON'T LOOK AT THE GENDER MARK CAREFULLY
It was very courageous of me
Really!?
Male
Female
I CAME HERE WITH IMPURE MOTIVES IN THE FIRST PLACE
HOWEVER I HAVE AN AIM NOW
AN AIM?
YES
I... I SEE...
shock
IT WAS MY MIS-TAKE... I'M SORRY
NO! IT'S MY FAULT. I COULDN'T TELL THE TRUTH.

I also,
want to own a cafe one day.
!

I LIKE YOUR SHOP VERY MUCH
THE BIG WINDOW WITH THE SUN STREAMING THROUGH THE LEAVES OF TREES.
THE SMALL STREAM AND THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER COMING FROM THE CAFE...
Natsu-chan and Haru-chan, what's your dream?
UM NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.
Oh?
AT YOUR AGE KIDS MUST HAVE MANY DREAMS...
I HAVE!
I WANT TO BE A CAFE OWNER!
SOUNDS NICE

SO, I'LL BE A GREAT OWNER.
AND I'LL MAKE A GREAT SHOP LIKE THIS ONE!
YEAH!
I REALLY LIKE IT HERE!
IT'S SO FUN JUST WATCHING THE CUSTOMERS AND MY PARENTS AS THEY MAKE TEA OR SANDWICHES!
EH!?
ME TOO!
Hehe
THAT'S NICE
Glad for you
JUMP

IF I'M NOT HERE, YOUR TROUBLES WILL BE SOLVED SO YOU CAN RELAX...!
THEY MIGHT BECOME CLOSE CO-WORKERS, TOO...
I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR GIVING ME A DREAM BUT I'M GOING TO QUIT...
Cover
AND... I PROBABLY GROSS YOU OUT...
UM
THAT'S
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT?

I'M SORRY. I MADE YOU WORRY ABOUT US.
I'LL TRY MY BEST WITH TOMOHARU AND AKIRA.
THIS MIGHT SOUND LIKE A CLICHÉ BUT...
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE GIRL OR BOY...
ISN'T THAT ENOUGH...?
. I WANT
TO SUPPORT YOUR DREAM.
JUMP
O-owner!
Wah!

hug
Owner!
i'm so happy!
EH!?
HEY!
Thanks! Thanks!
blush
UM...
AH... UH...
Let go of me!
OWNER,
I LIKE YOU A LOT!

UM...
DON'T TELL THEM.
THAT I'M ACTUALLY A BOY PLEASE...
UM...
AH...
WHAT? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I was... just lost in admiration...!
The first time...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU BLUSHED AT TOMOHARU BEFORE...
HEY.
YOU'RE IN MY WAY.
FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GET ALONG WITH THEM.
OK. BUT WE ALSO DON'T WANT TO MAKE THEM CONFUSED...
IT'S TOO LATE NOW IT'S KIND OF HARD TO TELL THE TRUTH

Don't just stand there with such a big body!
You're too slow!
SO WHAT?
HOW CAN I SERVE THIS MUCH AT ONCE, ANYWAY?
slide
THERE
I TOLD YOU
YOU NEED TO HOLD IT VERTICALLY
I JUST TOLD YOU
You really have a bad memory

push
OH!
DID YOU GUYS ALREADY HAVE A SHOWER?
Aha ha ha
GASP
YOU'VE
BEEN OPENING THE SHOP
cough
UM, I MEAN
I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE
Be grateful to me for being so generous, four-eyes!
Nothing! I just thought this guy might be useful if I trained him.
You're bad at teaching.
PUNCH

IT WAS REALLY UNPROFESSIONAL OF ME TO HIT MY CO-WORKER IN FRONT OF THE CUSTOMERS
I HAVEN'T DONE ENOUGH TRAINING YET...
TOMOHARU...
I'm glad nobody knew who he was!
I'M NOT HAPPY TO BE TREATED AS IF I'M A KID.
Wah
I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE MY BROTHER. I'M PROUD OF YOU!
What's he on about?
NOD
NOD
WHAT!
DON DON
...OH YEAH!
Surprise

I'm sorry.
It was my fault... Natsuhiko.
SHIFT
DOES YOUR CHEEK HURT?
HUH?

AH, I'M FINE! FORGET ABOUT IT.
I'VE BEEN WORKING SINCE I WAS FIFTEEN SO I'M TOUGH
He he he
Was he Apologizing!?
And just now He called me by my name for the first time..
I'm a bit
Happy.

SFX
SAVE
HEY, HURRY! WE'RE WORKING NOW!
SHUT UP.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO SHUT UP, YOU NEWCOMER!
THERE IS ONE HOUR LEFT UNTIL THE SHOP CLOSES
DO YOUR BEST, MIKADO!

But just a little bit.
I have no part to play anymore ?
YEAH...
THEY SEEM LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN...
Gya!
Gya!
Gya!
Useless boss
Stupid pink-eyes

I could get close to my dreams,
I guess....
SHOCK
...It's no time for being caught up in my dreams!
I have to keep Yuki-chan's secret!

Um...
Yuki-chan is a really girlish girl...
Hehehe
Huh?
Oh. No
I'm the only one. Who knows about it... I have to be quiet.
I need a good excuse..

HE'S A BOY BUT HE'S WEARING SUCH A GIRLY DRESS. HE SURE IS STRANGE
WELL, I ALREADY NOTICED IT THE FIRST TIME!
Dimly
Instinct
Intuition or a hunch
Nowadays, there's no girl like her...!
Owner!
All of a sudden It's too obvious!
dash
Natsuhiko Shinomiya 26 years old. He leads a life full of worries...

One Last Bit of Bliss

Cucumber Sandwich

chapter 4

by Higasa Akai

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Bliss Finale Release

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Kinky, Mitsugetsu, & Kiri

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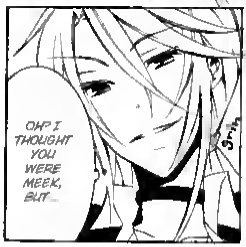
Chapter 4_Mission s Impossible

THANK YOU.
YOU WERE RANKED FIRST ON THE MIDTERM EXAM, NANAMI YUKI!
CONGRATULATIONS IT'S YOUR FIFTH TIME!
WOW~
Hey!
HOW ABOUT HAVING A DRINK SOMEWHERE? WE WANT TO TALK WITH YOU MORE...
OH!
AWESOME! YUKI-KUN IS REALLY SMART AND COOL!
SURE
I DON'T HAVE MY PART TIME JOB TODAY...
WOW! IT WILL BE FUN TALKING WITH GIRLS!
BUT I GUESS I SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO TALK ABOUT GIRLS' CLOTHES OR MAKE-UP
THEN LET'S GO TO THIS SHOP!

Chapter 4
Mission×Impossible



It'll be exposed...
That I'm a transvestite...!
WELCOME! This is the menu
Wow!
IT HAS A NICE RIVER VIEW HERE.
How lovely!
Hehe
Hehe
Hey
WHICH GIRL ARE YOU AFTER?
The front one?
NO... THEY'RE JUST CLASSMATES
HUH? YUKI-KUN, DO YOU KNOW THEM?
HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?
N- NO NO.
YOU'RE NOT WEARING GIRLISH CLOTHES TODAY

ARE YOU READY TO ORDER?
He hasn't noticed me!?
This is an important situation, though!
They might find out that I'm a transvestite...
Owner, help me...
stare

They're very cute!
WELL, I CAN INTRODUCE SOME GIRLS TO YOU! HOW ABOUT THAT!?
THEY'RE YOUR GIRLFRIENDS (PLURAL), AREN'T THEY...?
Or should I say they're your former customers
Aha ha ha
I'M ENVIOUS OF YOUTH...
sigh
Hey
YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD MAN! YOU'RE HOPELESS ..

IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE AN OLD MAN
Thank you very much
But there is no fated lover like the so-called knight in shining armor.
Reality isn't that simple.
...That's right. I'm already 26 so I want to have a girlfriend and get married in future.
YOUR TOTAL IS 1050 YEN, PLEASE
UM ARE YOU SHINOMIYA-SAN?
Huh?
YES, I AM.
I WAS RIGHT!
delighted
NICE TO MEET YOU! I'M AIKAWA MIZUKA!

OH! AIKAWA
ARE YOU THE DAUGHTER OF ... AIKAWA-SAN!?
WHO IS SHE?
YEAH! I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU TWO FROM MY MOM,
AND I WAS THINKING THIS CAFE MIGHT BE THE ONE
OH REALLY!?
irritated
I SEE... I NEVER EXPECTED AIKAWA-SAN TO HAVE A DAUGHTER.
Oh!
WHY DON'T WE GO OUT NEXT HOLIDAY?
I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU
Huh!?
blush
SU... SURE!
Does this mean...

Ha
ha
ha
She is
the princess riding in on a white horse ...!?
?

Y-YEAH.
stare
.....
SEE YOU AGAIN!
DON'T FORGET, SHINOMIYA-SAN.

I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU ON YOUR FIRST DATE.
Good job.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! WE'RE JUST GOING TO CATCH UP...
Oh
TOMOHARU, ARE YOU COMING, TOO?
WELL...
NO THANKS I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT HER MOM
TURN
AKIRA!?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING...?
AH
DON'T LIE. YOU LOOK MOON-STRUCK.
NO, THAT'S THE TRUTH!
I DON'T FEEL VERY WELL TODAY.
I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
HEY, WAIT. WHAT ABOUT THE SHOP!? WE CAN'T SERVE TEA WITHOUT YOU...

BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY SO ANGRY?
TWITCH
SEX KING
!!
AHHHHH
roll roll roll roll
AOA
Brother!

Hmph!
Don't be too conceited, you servant.
I'LL NEVER ALLOW YOU TO DISOBEY ME.
W—
W—
WHAT DID YOU SAY, YOU BASTARD!? I'M NOT YOUR SERVANT!
WORK, YOU PARASITE!
Arghhhh!

I WON'T COOK YOUR FAVORITE FISH DISH TONIGHT!
EXCUSE ME
I HAVE A HUNCH...
THAT MIKADO-SAN LIKES OWNER..
whisper
Um...
IN ADDITION, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO LIVE AS A FREELOADER IF BROTHER GETS A GIRLFRIEND
TO ME, HE'S JUST A KID.
IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSI-NESS,
twitch twitch
twitch twitch
WHETHER HE FLIRTS WITH OR HAS A BABY WITH AN UNKNOWN GIRL...
mumbles
mumbles
If they're going out seriously, I'd be very surprised.
Although there's nothing wrong with that... Hehehe...
HUH...? TOMOHARU-SAN?

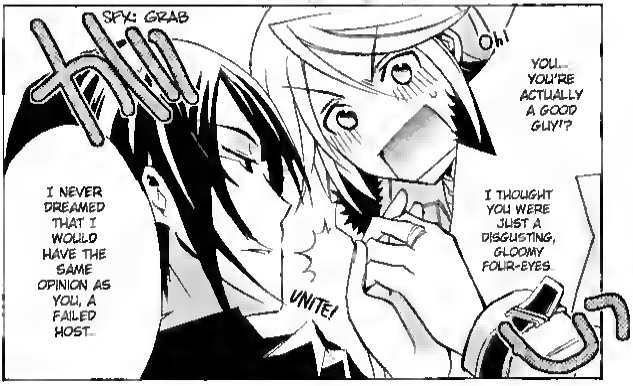
AIKAWA-SAN!
AH
haa
haa

OH, NO PROBLEM.
haa
haa
IT SEEMS MY CLOCK WAS BROKEN
I'M SORRY I'M LATE

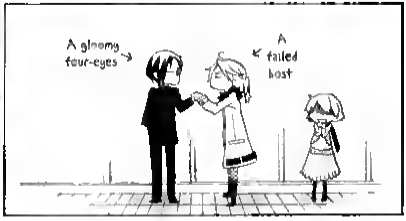
I GUESS WE DON'T SEE HIM LIKE THAT SO OFTEN
OH HE LOOKS LIKE HE IS HAVING FUN.
I'm relieved
IT'S RARE TO BE TOGETHER SO I WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE
WHERE SHOULD WE GO? A PLACE WHERE WE CAN TALK?

angry
angry
STAY AWAY FROM HIM!
STAY AWAY FROM HIM!
STAY AWAY FROM HIM!
angry
EEEK!
Why am I here with them...? Help me God-sama, Buddha-sama, owner-sama...
Damn
I CAN'T HEAR WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT...
HE'S TOO SOFT ON WOMEN!
I can't bear to see him like that.
ABSOLUTELY! THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT ATTITUDE FOR A FULL-FLEDGED CAFE OWNER.

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
EXACTLY JUST LIKE WHAT YOU SAID...


SFX: GRAB
Oh!
YOU... YOU'RE ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY!?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A DISGUSTING, GLOOMY FOUR-EYES.
I NEVER DREAMED THAT I WOULD HAVE THE SAME OPINION AS YOU, A FAILED HOST...
UNITE!

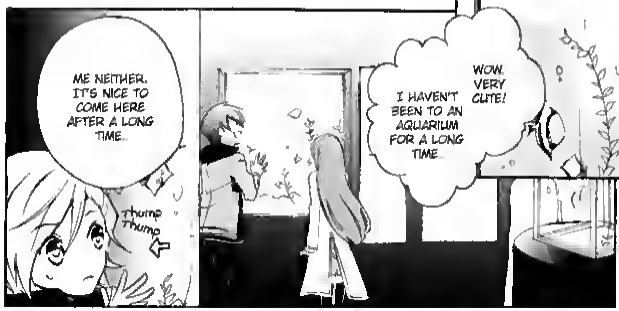
OH NO...

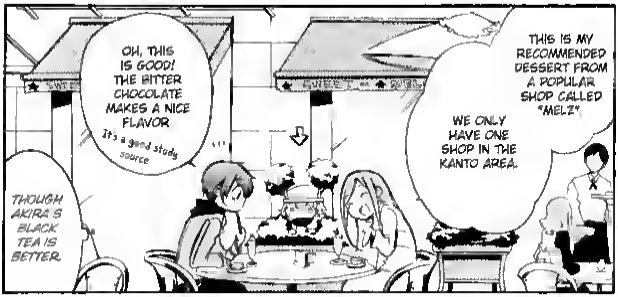

A gloomy four-eyes
A failed host

EXCUSE ME I HAVE TO DO HOMEWORK TODAY
grab
sneak
Hm
IT'LL WORK OUT IF I USE FIRM HAIR GEL AND FIX YOUR HAIR
WE ALSO NEED SOME CLOTHES TO COVER YOUR SLIGHTY BUILT BODY
I have a good idea....
to make their conversation reach us.
grin
I have a bad feeling about this...
...!?

UM. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH ME...?
Wow, cool!
You look different. It suits you.
AS YOU EXPECTED I'M GOING TO SEND YOU TO TAIL THEM...
FROM NOW ON!
WHAT!?

NO WAY! THEY'LL FIND OUT.
It'll be fine! Have some confidence in yourself!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
TOMOHARU-SAN IS COMPLETELY RUNNING WILD..
PLEASE HELP ME, MIKADO-SAN...
This is perfect!
Hehehe
GLARE
SHUT UP AND
JUST DO IT.
breeze
Y... YES...


ME NEITHER. IT'S NICE TO COME HERE AFTER A LONG TIME...
Thump Thump
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO AN AQUARIUM FOR A LONG TIME...
WOW. VERY CUTE!

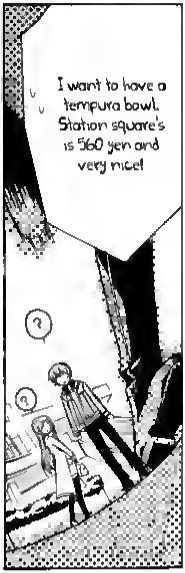

OH, THIS IS GOOD! THE BITTER CHOCOLATE MAKES A NICE FLAVOR
It's a good study source
THIS IS MY RECOMMENDED DESSERT FROM A POPULAR SHOP CALLED "MELZ".
WE ONLY HAVE ONE SHOP IN THE KANTO AREA.
THOUGH AKIRA'S BLACK TEA IS BETTER.

What's this anyway?
C... Cute!?
Ah SHINOMIYA-SAN HOW CUTE!
YEAH, THEY'RE MATCHING! LET'S TAKE A PICTURE!

I'LL TRY TO GO CLOSER!
WAH!
SHIT
HOW'S IT GOING?
THEY'RE IN A GOOD MOOD I CAN'T QUITE MAKE OUT WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT, THOUGH
TOMOHARU-SAN AND MIKADO-SAN,
SHOULD BE MORE GENTLE TO HIM, IF THEY'RE SO WORRIED FOR HIM...
stagger
I LIKE THE OWNER, TOO, BUT,
THEIR FEELINGS TOWARDS HIM ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MINE...
bump
OW!
OH, I'M SORRY.
ARE YOU OK?
YES... I'M SORRY OWNER...
It hurts...

shock
Owner...?
?
Ah...ah...
Damn!
um...

*In Japanese, Owner (TENCHOU) and Tempura bowl (TENDON) sound similar



EH!?
WHERE ARE THEY!?
We didn't notice!
HUH!?
sob sob sob sob
!
COM
COM
IT WAS SO FUN TODAY
THANK YOU, SHINOMIYA-SAN
YOU'RE WELCOME ...

HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS.. I DIDN'T FEEL IT WAS OUR FIRST DATE.
IS THAT BECAUSE OF WHAT I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM MY MOM?
OR MAYBE BECAUSE WE'RE ON THE SAME WAVE-LENGTH?
EH?
SO.. IF YOU DON'T MIND ..
thump
WITH ME ..
BROTHER, STEP ASIDE!

HUH...?
SWOOSH

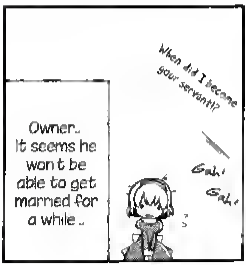
However, thanks to that, we can finally get rid of her. Good work!
Hehehehehehe
TOMOHARU-SAN CALM DOWN
YOU STUPID FOUR-EYES! WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY BROTHER!?
Collapse
Deja vu...
KYAA!
OH — BROTHER!
YOU... YOU GUYS
WE SHOULD'VE DONE THAT IN THE BEGINNING
Hmph!
BROTHER —?
WHY ARE YOU HERE!?
YOU WERE FOLLOWING US!?
It's okay, brother... I'm willing to be scolded by your pretty lips...
Gahhh!
What kind of deception technique is that!?
I'm going to hit you!

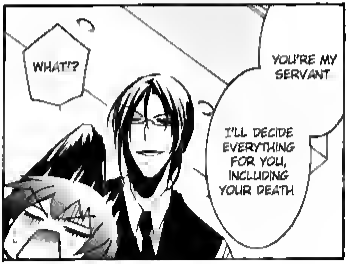
Gahhh!
Gahhh!
EXCUSE ME...
You're so scary, brother!
WASN'T IT SHINOMIYA TOMOHARU-SAN
THAT I WAS TOGETHER WITH TODAY?
Blush
OH, I WAS MISTAKEN...! HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER...!
NO- I'M TOMOHARU AND THIS IS MY OLDER BROTHER...
...AH?
bow
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME AGAIN IF YOU HAVE SPARE TIME.
IT WAS NOTHING.
IS THAT SO... THEN PLEASE FORGET WHAT I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY.
I'M 28...
...IN THAT CASE I GUESS YOU'RE MUCH OLDER THAN ME
I'm 19 years old

A-AIKAWA-SAN
SEE YOU...
BYE-BYE, NATSUHIKO-OJISAN*!
*old man
shock
OJISAN!?
Quince ball, eat ball together!
withering

Ojisan
CHEER UP! THERE MUST BE ANOTHER CHANCE IN YOUR LIFE!
GIVE UP WITH GOOD GRACE.
Peace has been restored to the shop
In this way...

WOW, THAT'S THE DARKNESS OF THE MODERN WORLD, I GUESS...
Your imagination is too precise
Gah!
I GUESS I'LL DIE ALONE AT HOME AND WHEN THE DEAD BODY HAS NEARLY TURNED INTO A SKELETON, A NEWSBOY WILL FIND MY BODY...
IT'S OVER. I'LL BE SINGLE FOREVER


Owner... It seems he won't be able to get married for a while...
When did I become your servant!?
Gah! Gah!


WHAT!?
YOU'RE MY SERVANT.
I'LL DECIDE EVERYTHING FOR YOU, INCLUDING YOUR DEATH

I WISH FOR YOUR HAPPINESS MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE,
BECAUSE YOU'RE MY ONLY FAMILY.
BUT YOU SHOULD TELL ME IF YOU'RE REALLY DESPERATE
Huh?
Then I'll introduce this nurse to you
That again? The girl is one of your girlfriends!
His only family... That's why he was very worried about Owner..
I'LL HELP AS LONG AS I CAN
TOMO-HARU...
TOUCHED
HEY, TOMOHARU-SAN
It was very harsh of me to think that Tomoharu-san is scary_because everyone has their own reasons..

Well, the bond of family is eternal, so it's different than the bond of lovers, after all...
mumble
Yuki was convinced that the owner will never get married.
SCARY!

One Last Bit of Bliss

Cucumber Sandwich

chapter 5

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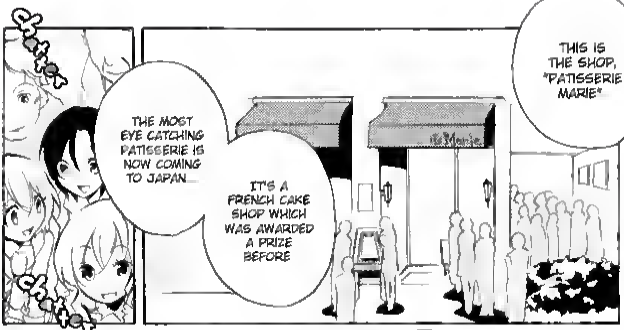
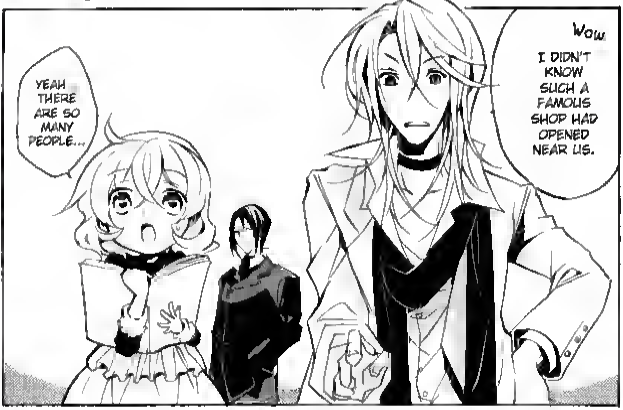
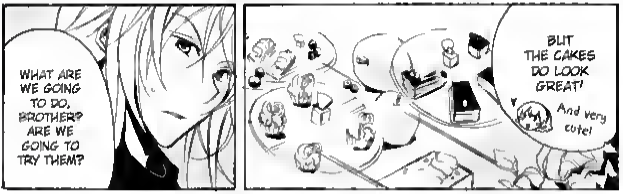
Chapter 5 A Beginning is Always Sudden

If I remember right, it happened two weeks into Akira's stay with us.
UNDER CONSTRUCTION?
WOW THAT'S A REALLY BIG SHOW CASE!
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE BUILDING A NEW CAKE SHOP HERE...
WHAT
WHATEVER THE SHOP IS, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR CAFE
OH YOU'RE RELIEVED??
"I'M RELIEVED IT'S NOT A CAFE."
CA. CAKE SHOP...? I SEE
At the time I thought it wouldn't affect us too much..
Hurry and let's have lunch!
Hey don't say such a thing
Yeah, yeah

5杯め
はじまりはいつも唐突に
Chapter 5 A Beginning is Always Sudden


Sister
Sister
THE MOST EYE CATCHING PATISSERIE IS NOW COMING TO JAPAN...
IT'S A FRENCH CAKE SHOP WHICH WAS AWARDED A PRIZE BEFORE
THIS IS THE SHOP, "PATISSERIE MARIE"


YEAH THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE...
Wow
I DIDN'T KNOW SUCH A FAMOUS SHOP HAD OPENED NEAR US.

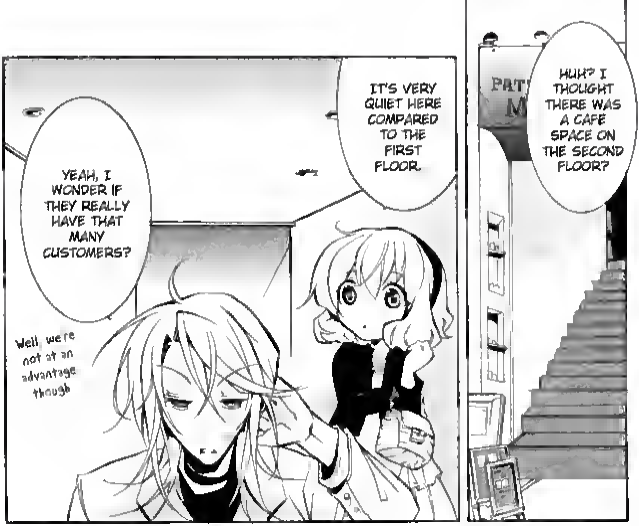

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, BROTHER? ARE WE GOING TO TRY THEM?
BUT THE CAKES DO LOOK GREAT!
And very cute!

dig
dig
dig

WE CAN'T WIN WITHOUT STUDYING THE ENEMY!
WE SHOULD AT LEAST TRY IT ONCE!
NO! I'M SCARED OF TOO MANY PEOPLE.
I don't want to go
Yeah, he has...
He's become an escapist

DON'T CRY!
WALK STRAIGHT!
WAH—
You devil

Hey, what are you doing!?
No~ Don't stop me! I want to return to nature~!


HUH? I THOUGHT THERE WAS A CAFE SPACE ON THE SECOND FLOOR?
IT'S VERY QUIET HERE COMPARED TO THE FIRST FLOOR.
YEAH, I WONDER IF THEY REALLY HAVE THAT MANY CUSTOMERS?
Well, we're not at an advantage though

ARE YOU COMPOSED?
Don't pull my jacket
He isn't watching
Um...
Yeah...?

HELLO?
Open

sfx: crowded
NEXT PLEASE
I'M SORRY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY SEATS AT THE MOMENT
PLEASE WRITE DOWN YOUR NAME AND WAIT HERE
Brother!
collapse

NO THANKS IT'LL BE FINE...!
SHOULD WE CALL AN AMBULANCE!?
EXCUSE ME, SIR!
BROTHER, HOLD ON!
Ouch!

!!!
...Ray.
Akira—sama.

Excuse me for my long silence,
Akira-sama.
kneels
HUH...?
BUZZ
.....

AH... HOW DO YOU KNOW EACH OTHER...?
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT AKIRA-SAMA WOULD BE COMING HERE...
I'M SURPRISED.
clatter
I'M A TEA COORDINATOR HERE, BUT I USED TO WORK AS A BUTLER FOR THE MIKADO FAMILY YEARS AGO.
MY NAME IS ALEXEI.
I'M SORRY FOR NOT INTRODUCING MYSELF EARLIER

OH, I'M SHINOMIYA NATSUHIKO FROM A CAFE NEAR HERE
NICE TO MEET YOU, ALEXEI-SAN.
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO
OH... BUT, AKIRA CALLED YOU "RAY" JUST NOW...
YES, THAT WAS MY NICKNAME.
WOW... 5 YEAR OLD MIKADO MUST HAVE BEEN...
OH, HE WAS VERY CUTE AT THE TIME.
WHEN I FIRST MET AKIRA-SAMA, HE WAS ONLY 5 YEARS OLD
SO I CALLED MYSELF "RAY" TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM TO PRONOUNCE
DON'T TALK ABOUT SUCH THINGS ANY MORE. WHEN DID YOU COME BACK TO JAPAN?
WHY ARE YOU WORKING HERE?

THE OWNER OF THIS SHOP IS A PATISSIER, MOREOVER, HE IS MY COUSIN
SOMEONE HAPPENED TO ASK ME FOR HELP ENTHUSIASTICALLY,
SO I'VE BEEN HELPING THEM SINCE THEY OPENED THE SHOP.
WELL, I'M NOT SURE IF THIS SUITS YOUR TASTE,
BUT PLEASE TRY OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.
Clatter
Wow!
I'M A BIT NERVOUS TO SERVE THIS IN FRONT OF PEOPLE IN THE SAME BUSINESS.
OH, WE'RE NOT THAT KIND OF.
I'LL HELP MYSELF, THANK YOU.
WOW! THIS IS GREAT!
WHAT KIND OF CAKE IS THIS?

THIS IS AN APPLE AND PUMPKIN TART.
WE BOIL DOWN THE APPLE WITH BUTTER AND WHITE WINE AND POUR IT OVER THE PUMPKIN BRULEE.
THE SEASONAL FRUITS BRING WONDERFUL FLAVORS
I ALSO PREPARED AN AROMATIC EARL GREY.
NOT ONLY THE CAKE, BUT THIS TEA IS ALSO VERY GOOD!
THEY ARE A GOOD MATCH.
I'M HONORED BY THE COMPLI-MENT

YOUR TEA HASN'T CHANGED.
I HAVEN'T TASTED TEA BETTER THAN YOURS.
IT DIDN'T SUIT YOUR TASTE, AKIRA-SAMA?
...NO.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
OH, PEOPLE ARE LINING UP.
ISN'T IT BETTER FOR US TO LEAVE?
Chatter
YEAH
Wow so many people
Chatter

WELL, THEN, ALEXEI-SAN, WE'RE LEAVING...
OWNER-SAN.
OH,
SORRY, THIS IS THE OWNER.
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN ADULT AT ALL THOUGH...
I'M SO SORRY...
SHOCK
Raise
LET'S GIVE IT OUR BEST EFFORT,
FOR THE SAKE OF THIS AREA.

He is a nice person...
YEAH, SURE

He is very considerate towards us, even knowing our level.
I'm just an owner of a normal cafe
that's neither popular nor first rank.

Somehow... It makes me feel bad...
In spite of that
I always think of how we're winning or losing to the other...

!

AKIRA-SAMA.
THE REASON THAT I'M BACK HERE...
YOU DO UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?
AKIRA-SAMA HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL...
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU STILL WON'T ACCEPT HER AS YOUR MOTHER, JUST LIKE BEFORE.
RAY, WHO SENT YOU HERE?
WAS IT MY FATHER OR... THAT WOMAN?

Hold
THEY DON'T SUIT YOU.
SLIP
ALTHOUGH YOU GIVE ME A DIFFERENT IMPRESSION NOW
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR GLASSES
IN THIS WAY, I FEEL LIKE I CAN SEE THROUGH TO YOUR SENSITIVE SIDE.
SO I PREFER THIS.

SFX: SWIPE
!
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH ME
YOU'RE ODIOUS
OH, I'M PRETTY HATED NOW, I SEE
YOU WERE ALWAYS TOO SCARED TO SLEEP WITHOUT ME WHEN YOU WERE SMALL...
STOP
THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN

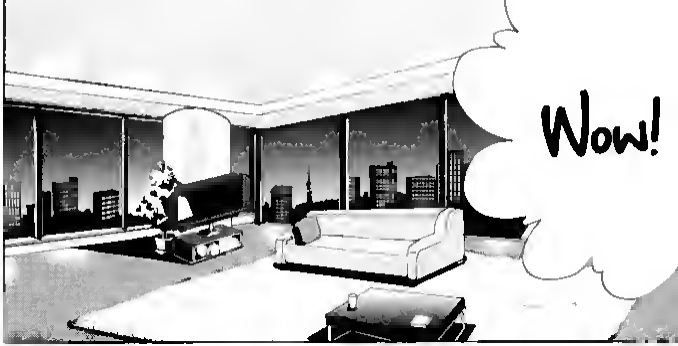
Before your friend's cafe goes under.

OWNER ...
CHEER UP.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME. IT'S ALREADY VERY DARK.
THANK YOU.
Y-YEAH
Dash

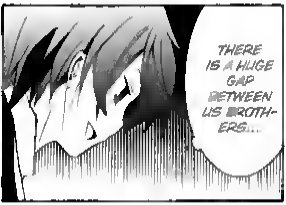
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SO HARD TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH AN OLD FRIEND JUST LIKE THE OLD TIMES
WHAT A LUCKY COINCI-DENCE
OH, AKIRA.
WERE YOU HAPPY TO SEE ALEXEI-SAN?
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME RIGHT?

...AKIRA?
LEAVE ME ALONE.
GO SOME-WHERE ELSE.
What!!?
HEY, AKIRA! THAT'S MY ROOM, YOU KNOW! OPEN THE DOOR!
SHUT UP.
BANG
BANG
AKIRA!
sigh~
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
CAN YOU WAIT OUTSIDE FOR ME, BROTHER?

THANK YOU FOR WAITING
Screech
!
sway
DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF ME! I HAVE MY PRIDE
I DON'T WANT TO BE SUPPORTED BY YOU OTHER THAN THE DEBT YOU'VE PAID FOR ME...
Hey
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
He's too cool it pisses me off...
WHAT !?
I have to give up... I'm a girl, huh (Though)
TO MY PLACE YOU CAN STAY THERE FOR A WHILE SINCE THERE'S NO HELPING IT


Wow!

I KNOW HE'S RICH.
It's wonderful! A jacuzzi with eight functions!?
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS MUCH!
No matter what, I want to try this with once!


THERE IS A HUGE GAP BETWEEN US BROTHERS...

Awesome... I want to live here!
BROTHER, WHERE'S YOUR PRIDE?
Well, it's fine.
sfx: Wooooow!

DEPRESSED.
BROTHER
Touch
Well he was a hostmaster all
TONIGHT,
I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET EVERYTHING.
... HUH?

WELL, YOU NEED TO FUEL UP REGULARLY!
LET'S DRINK UNTIL YOU FORGET ALL OF YOUR WORRIES
YEAH
CHEERS!
SAX GUARD

TOMOHARU, SIT DOWN PROPERLY...
?

UM.. I'M GETTING PISSED OFF...
Hic
DAMN IT... IN SPITE OF BEING JUST A FREE-LOADER...
mumble

Pl
HEAVE-HO
OH! THIS IS NICE
YOUR SOFA IS TOO SOFT AND FLUFFY SO IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE
but I'm sure it's expensive
...
BROTHER, PLEASE DON'T DRINK WITH MIKADO ALONE
WHY?
In any case you absolutely can't
Promise
ANYWAY, YOU'RE MY YOUNGER BROTHER, BUT YOU'VE GROWN TALLER THAN ME
Are those long legs meant to annoy me?
Aha ha ha
I NEVER IMAGINED WE'D DRINK TOGETHER SOMEDAY

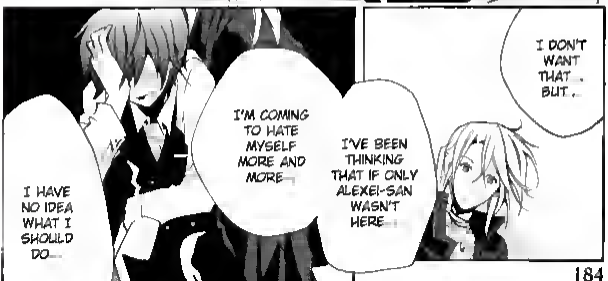
IT BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES .
WE'D SERVE THE REGULAR CUSTOMERS, TOO
DO YOU REMEM-BER, THAT WE OFTEN PLAYED TOGETHER AT THE CAFE?
OH IS THAT SO?
YOU'D DROP A TRAY AND CRY LIKE A BABY SO I WAS ALWAYS THE ONE WHO GOT SCOLDED
HAHAHA, IT'S NOT SO DIFFER-ENT FROM NOW.
...BRO-THER?
IT WAS FUN EVERY DAY
AFTER ALL,

BUT...
IT'LL BE OVER FOR OUR SHOP..

IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE...

Hold
!
I don't want to.

No...
I don't want to...


I DON'T WANT THAT... BUT...
I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT IF ONLY ALEXEI-SAN WASN'T HERE...
I'M COMING TO HATE MYSELF MORE AND MORE...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I SHOULD DO...

THE SHOP IS YOURS.
Touch
IT'S NOT OUR PARENTS' ANYMORE
ISN'T IT YOURS NOW?
W-WELL...
THEN IT'S FINE
SFX: BOUND

IS IT SUCH A BAD THING,
TO BE A BAD PERSON?
NO ONE CAN BE A PERFECTLY GOOD PERSON
BUT THAT'S NORMAL
CAN YOU GIVE UP EVERYTHING JUST SO YOU CAN SAY THAT YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON?

ARE YOU FINE WITH NOT TAKING BACK YOUR CUSTOMERS, EVEN IF YOUR SHOP IS GOING TO GO UNDER?
W...
WELL ...
DON'T YOU HAVE A DUTY TO YOUR SHOP!?
TO— TOMO-HARU !
Are you that scared of being a bad person and being hated by people!?
Then...

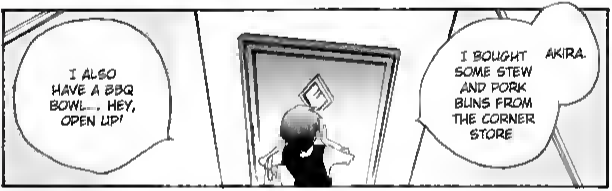
Then I'll stand by you.

Whatever happens,
I'll be by your side forever...

TO...
TOMO-HARU
SO...
BRO-THER
PLEASE
JUST ONCE...
Twitch
...AH.

bustle
I GUESS THE BEST THING ABOUT OUR CAFE IS THE TEA
IN THAT CASE, I NEED TO TALK WITH AKIRA
bustle
Eh?
A... Akira?
Stand
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE DRINK-ING LIKE THIS!
THANKS TOMOHARU!
I'LL CATCH A CAB SOME-WHERE!
EH?
WAIT
Hey
BROTH-ER!?

UM...
HIS FAVORITE FOODS ARE I THINK THAT'S ALL


I BOUGHT SOME STEW AND PORK BUNS FROM THE CORNER STORE
AKIRA.
I ALSO HAVE A BBQ BOWL... HEY, OPEN UP!

HEY, CUT THE NON-SENSE. OPEN UP!
TURN
Open
OH...
silence...

...AKIRA?
WELCOME.
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU
I WANT TO HAVE YOUR TEA
Akira-sama.
Sure,

One Last Bit of Bliss

Cucumber Sandwich

chapter 6

by Higasa Akai

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6杯め
「時間」の問題
Chapter 6 It's Only a Matter of Time

CLATTER
I'M GLAD THAT I'VE BEEN ALLOWED TO PREPARE TEA FOR YOU ALONE AGAIN
THOUGH I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO COME SO SOON.

I GUESS THE CAFE IS REALLY AN IMPORTANT PLACE TO YOU.
YOU'VE MADE A WISE DECISION.
CLATTER
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME.
I DIDN'T SAY ONE WORD ABOUT GOING BACK HOME.
SO...
ARE YOU GOING TO TALK ME OUT OF CLOSING DOWN THE CAFE?

I WOULD NEVER GIVE UP.
I'M GOING TO BRING THEM DOWN DECISIVELY AND COMPLETELY.
I
RATTLE
HOWEVER, IF YOU GO BACK TO MIKADO NOW, I'LL BACK OUT OF THIS.
THAT'S WHAT'S ON THE TABLE.

HOW DOES THAT SOUND, AKIRA-SAMA?

I BELIEVE,
YOU ALSO HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT, THEN...
THAT YOU BETRAYED ME.
CLENCH
YOU DESTROYED EVERYTHING IN THE WORST POSSIBLE WAY...
IF YOU REGRET WHAT YOU'VE DONE,
SFX grab
DON'T OPPOSE ME!
RAY!

Regret?
Who feels that?

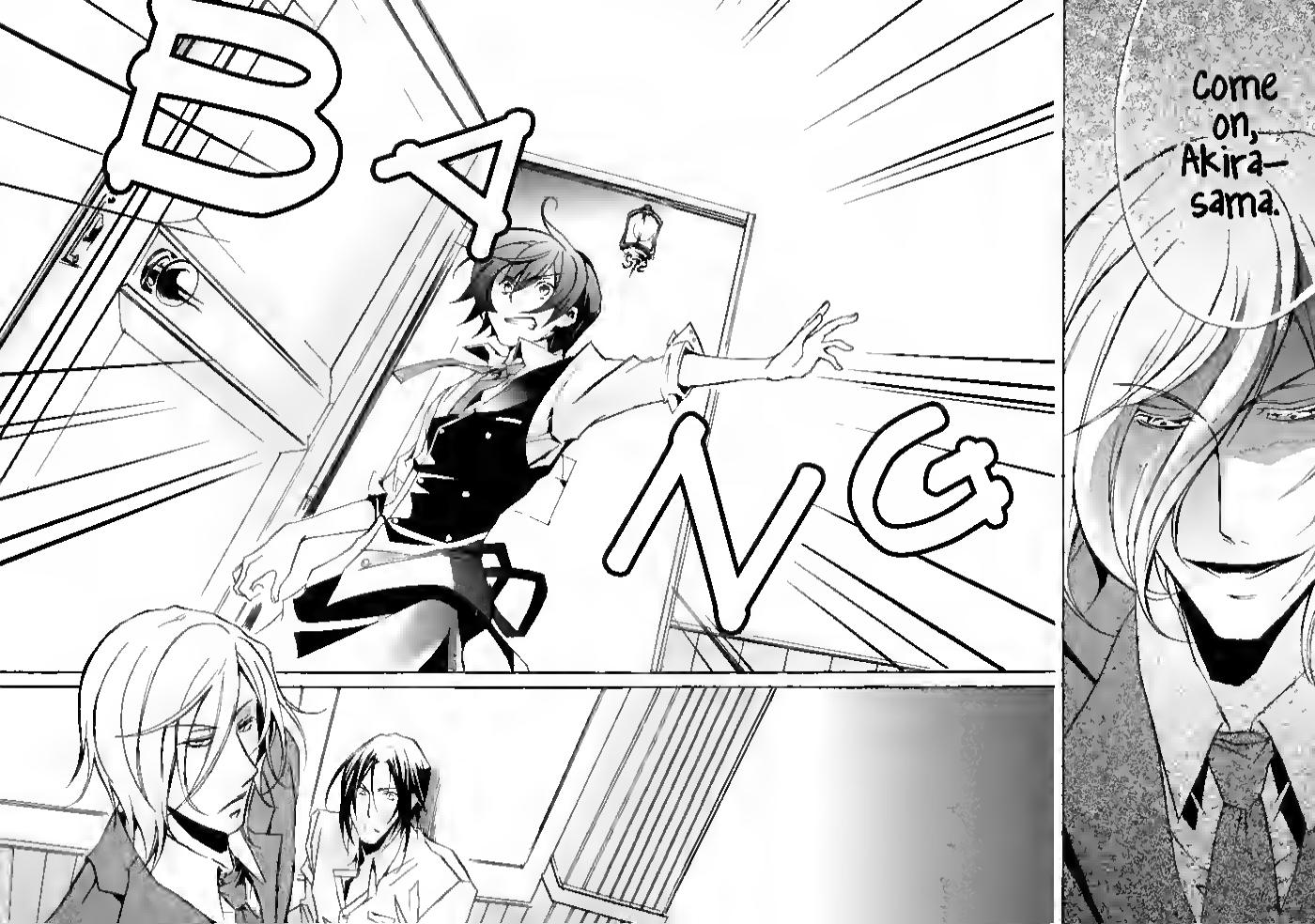
YOUR MOTHER DIED OF A DISEASE,
AND YOUR STEP-MOTHER ONLY GAVE YOU AFFECTION ON THE SURFACE.

YOU'RE REALLY MISERABLE
MIKADO AKIRA.
Fufufu

UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES, THE ONLY PERSON WHO LOVED YOU WAS THE BUTLER.
YOU WERE VERY OBEDIENT,
AND NEVER COMPLAINED.
Such a life,
I was sick of it then.
RAY... YOU...
I WAS CONSIDE-RING QUITTING ...
BUT IT'S NO FUN SIMPLY QUITTING, RIGHT?
YOU'RE KIDDING...

CRASH
YOU'RE THE WORST.
I CAN'T HELP HATING YOU.

KICK
SO I DON'T CARE HOW I TREAT YOU.
TRAMPLE
YOU DELIBER-ATELY..
LET ME SEE THAT BACK THEN.
WHO CARES ABOUT THE PAST?
WELL, BEFORE YOUR THROAT GETS HURT,
SAY YOU'RE GOING BACK TO YOUR MANSION


BANG
Come on, Akira-sama.

hey
A...
Akira...
hey

WERE YOU DECEIVING HIM!?
WEREN'T YOU VERY CLOSE TO AKIRA?
ALEXEI-SAN...

WERE YOU EAVES-DROPPING ON US?
THOSE AREN'T VERY GOOD MANNERS

...I DON'T PLAN TO MEDDLE IN YOUR AFFAIRS,
BUT THIS IS NOT FAIR
THIS IS JUST A WARNING
stare

IT'S FINE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
step
.....
YOU'RE AN ADULT, SO YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
THERE IS A GREAT CURRENT RUNNING THROUGH THIS WORLD.
THEREFORE WE NEED MIKADO AKIRA AS AN INHERITOR SO THE CURRENT WON'T CHANGE.

I WON'T ALLOW SUCH A...
STOP...
WHAT!?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, ESPECIALLY FOR AN AVERAGE CITIZEN LIKE YOU.
YOU'D BETTER KEEP OUT OF THIS FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

RAY'S GOT A POINT.
NATSU-HIKO,
USE YOUR OWN JUDGMENT.

SMACK
Stupid!
WHA..
Leave it to me!
You too!
DON'T ASK ME SUCH A RIDICULOUS THING, STUPID!

We need Akira.
That's all I wanted to say.
ALEXEI-SAN,
I'LL DECIDE BY MYSELF, WHAT'S PROFITABLE FOR ME

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL YOUR CAFE GOES UNDER!
I SEE. IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE'LL CONTINUE ON WITH OUR SHOP.
THEN, PLEASE EXCUSE US.
YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING
YES.
YOUR SHOP SEEMS TO BE GOING QUITE WELL.
But this is a patisserie.
IF YOU UNDERSTAND THAT...
CERTAINLY YOU'VE GOTTEN POPULAR. I CAN IMAGINE HOW FAST YOUR CUSTOMER TURNOVER IS.

It doesn't matter how good your cakes are. This is not the place for relaxing.
because this shop is not a cafe
sneer

SLAM
YOUR TEA.
SERVES AS A REFERENCE.
trudge
trudge
That was awful. I talked big...
I might get a dead cat or some rubbish tomorrow morning...
uwa
aaah

HERE I THOUGHT
YOU WERE SHOWING SOME GUTS SO IT WAS ALL TALK
WHAT!?
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
ta-dah
S-SO? YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SHUT YOURSELF AWAY!
he he
DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT THE SHOP! WHAT, WERE YOU GOING TO SPY ON OUR RIVAL'S TEA?
he
Yes..
I know... You are the great Akira-sama..
ARROGANT BASTARD...
GLAD WE'RE CLEAR ON THAT. GOOD GOING, SERVANT.

Flash
I KNOW YOU WERE MAKING A TIMID FACE... HE'S NOT CUTE AT ALL.
FOR THE FIRST TIME I FELT THAT HE IS YOUNGER THAN ME
Oh
Ah ...
...
Haa
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. WELL, I'LL HOLD YOUR HAND.
grab
HEY WHERE'RE YOUR GLASSES!?
I have no idea.
What, Hey, hey!

Grip
!
IT'S WARM.
YEAH, MY NORMAL TEMPERATURE IS KIND OF HIGH
About 36.5°C
Pull
!

AKIRA ...?
Don't betray me.
Stay by my side forever.

THAT'S AN ORDER.
YUKI-CHAN, CAN YOU PUT BACK THESE DISHES?
SURE.

Crash
Huh
Slip
Ah, I'm so sorry
It's my seventh time
Uh, it's okay
Well, I'll clean up
It's dangerous here
Hey! Don't bully her!
Focus on your own job
Uwah!
what
The dregs

Popular among the maniacs...!
Oh my god!
His cold eyes... I want to be looked down on more...
Ah
Mikado-sama is so cool...
♡

GAZE
twitch

BROTHER, WHAT ARE YOU SMIRKING FOR?
uwa.

Wah!
What!?
NOTHING... IT JUST SEEMS YOU WERE SMILING WHILE LOOKING AT MIKADO

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
BUT I GUESS THAT'S A SIGN THAT HE'S BECOME A FAMILIAR PRESENCE HERE!!

Because
HEY! IF YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING, SAY IT.
EH CH
WHY ARE YOU TURNING ON ME..?
LIAR.
NO I WASN'T.
I MISSED THE CHANCE TO SAY THIS LAST TIME..
BROTHER
SIGH
You haven't
called me "Haru" even once.
LIAR

HUH... IS THAT SO...?
YEAH.
swipe
YOU USED TO CALL ME HARU!
AND YOU CALLED ME THAT WHEN YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME.
He's struggling to recall
JUST AFTER YOU FOUND ME,
YOU SWITCHED TO THE PROPER TOMO-HARU...
IS THAT WHAT'S BEEN BOTHERING YOU THIS WHOLE TIME...?
Hey!
WHY? YOU WON'T ACCEPT THAT I'M YOUR BROTHER?
LOFAN
IT'S NOT THAT... BUT... YOU LOOK SO DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE, SO...

There there
Brother
depressed
Cheap
TOO CRUEL... ALL I'VE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WAS HIM SINCE I WAS SM@LL...
LIKE HOW I COULD GET HIS ATTENTION, AND CALCULATING THE PERFECT TIME TO PRETEND I'M CRYING...
GRAB
Huh!?
So, after all, which one is more important to you, me or this four-eyes?
Make it one or the other!
Shut up you failed bast feeble-minded people sure are an eyesore
To begin with you're a runaway Why are you so acting high?
You two... please stop fighting...
WHAT'D YOU SAY, YOU BASTARD!?
THE MASTER ALWAYS COMES FIRST FOR A SERVANT.
Hmph! THAT'S A SILLY QUES-TION.

Glare
I'M THE OWNER...
WHAT THE OWNER SAYS IS ABSOLUTE...!
HEY, YOU TWO, CUT IT OUT...
STOP
You bastards! Be alert and work hard!
AHooo !?
Cafe Cucumber
CREAK
CREAK

YD!

キューカンバー×サンドイッチ
①
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